

NOTE

Gender Correction for a Louse (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) from Cormorants

Eichler (1950, *Rivista di Parassitologia* 11: 106) described *Piagetiella caputincisa* (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) as a new species, with the type host being the blue-eyed cormorant, *Phalacrocorax atriceps* King. The agreement of the specific with the generic name is obvious, as both are feminine. Subsequent workers have been consistent in perpetuating the spelling given by Eichler. These include Hopkins and Clay (1952, *British Museum (Natural History)*: 292) in their check list of the genera and species of chewing lice, Price (1970, *Canadian Entomologist* 102: 401) in his revision of the genus *Piagetiella*, Clay and Moreby (1970, *Pacific Insects Monograph* 23: 219) in a listing of lice of subantarctic islands, and Robinson (1984, *British Museum (Natural History)* Publication Number B2 0955: 31) in a checklist of insects of the Falkland Islands. To the best of our knowledge, all published references to this species have

spelled it with the species in the feminine gender.

The late George C. Steyskal, in his efforts to put Latin ignorami on the right path, wrote to explain to us the error of our ways in considering "*caputincisa*" as the correct form. According to him, "*caputincisa*" represents a noun-phrase in apposition and the adjective "*incisa*" refers to "*caput*", which is a neuter noun. Therefore, the correct spelling for this scientific name must be *Piagetiella caputincisum*. Rather than simply change this spelling in our future references to this species, we thought it prudent to call attention as to why we are taking this action and remove any doubt that we may have committed a typographical error in so doing.

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